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## Official Registries and Professional Progress

**F**ORMED one by one in scattered cities in the United States, for the most part of comparatively recent origin, official registries for nurses have already reached a position of outstanding importance in the nursing profession, and are likely to prove a factor of incomparable significance in its development in the next decade.

Those who look ahead, to the future place of the official registry, see a nationwide organization able to tell at a minute's notice the nursing needs in all of its branches and the exact distribution of the members of the profession. They see the registries of all the states forming a network of ethical placement bureaus operated by personnel experts, a great unified whole, meeting the community needs, and thus the placement needs of nurses the country over. Surely, these ends are not too much to expect in the light of the present advancement.

So gradual has this growth been, however, that even those most closely asso-

ciated with the profession have been slow to realize its meaning. When official registries were first started, they were looked upon as local organizations conducted for the benefit of nurses in a

**I**F THE official registries are to attain complete usefulness, the organizations responsible for their conduct must be on the alert to sense the changing requirements of their communities and of the nursing profession.

*When the profession shall have attained the goal of a network of highly efficient and ethical placement bureaus, extending the filaments of its service up and down and across the entire country, it will have gone far toward equalizing the distribution of nurses.*

given community, each registry a separate entity, responsible only to its immediate members. They have slowly taken upon themselves ramifications until they have become the arteries of the nursing profession, the units closely correlated, unavoidably interdependent, each contributing to the well-being of the whole.

This correlation is demonstrated daily in a score of states. Private duty nurses who are served by a registry in one city know that in over seventy other cities in the United States, nurses are receiving the same service; they know that this service is operated at a minimum cost to them; that in all of these communities exact information is at all times obtainable on the nursing care required and the number of nurses available; that any one of these official